

Page Denied

Next 4 Page(s) In Document Denied

11 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Briefing of Senate Foreign Relations and
Military Affairs Committees on 5 September 1962

1. The Secretary of State requested the Acting Director of Central Intelligence to participate, together with the Secretary of Defense, in briefing the Senate Foreign Relations and Military Affairs Committees at 1030 hours on 5 September 1962. It is understood that the President had directed that the two committees be briefed on the current world situation with particular reference to U.S. relations with the Sino-Soviet bloc. The Acting Director was accompanied by [redacted] of the Office of National Estimates and [redacted] from the staff of the Deputy Director (Intelligence).

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2. The Secretary of State opened the session and spoke for more than an hour, dealing principally with the Berlin situation and Cuba, but also touching briefly on most major world problems. After the Secretary began discussion of the Cuba problem, the Acting Director of Central Intelligence presented information on recent Soviet deliveries of military assistance to Cuba. When the Secretary of State concluded his presentation, the Secretary of Defense spoke for about twenty minutes, making a comparison of U.S. and Soviet military strength.

3. After the briefings the senators launched into an extended period of questioning which lasted until about 1400 hours. The most persistent questioning, some of which was pressed quite vigorously, was related to the Cuba situation. Other matters of concern were foreign aid, Berlin, the Common Market, and what was felt to be too many concessions to the Communists in various parts of the world.

4. Most of the questioning of the Acting Director was undertaken by Senator Lausche on Cuba. The Senator explicitly questioned the Acting Director on the statement that, up to that time, no surface-to-surface missiles had been identified in Cuba. Senator Lausche and many of his colleagues also pressed the Secretary of State on what the U.S. Government intended to do about the military



buildup in Cuba. The Acting Director replied negatively to a question about the credibility of a report that Cuba would join the Warsaw Pact Organization. Senator Cannon's questions addressed to the Secretary of Defense about Soviet missiles and bombers were answered by [REDACTED]

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5. During a short break, Mr. Fred Dutton, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations stated that the President had directed that a similar briefing be made available to the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees on Wednesday 12 September 1962.

6. The following Senators attended the briefing. Several others were present but not identified.

Fulbright
Russell
Stennis
Hickenlooper
Sparkman
Lausche
Morse
Jackson
Case
Thurmond
Cannon
Aiken
Smith (Mo)
Saltonstall
Church
Byrd

[REDACTED]
Special Assistant to the DDI

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